

Mershon Auditorium

Herrick Archives Number 055

A. IDENTIFICATION & LOCATION

1. Name

1.1 Never officially named by Board of Trustees action.

1.2 Alternate names noted:

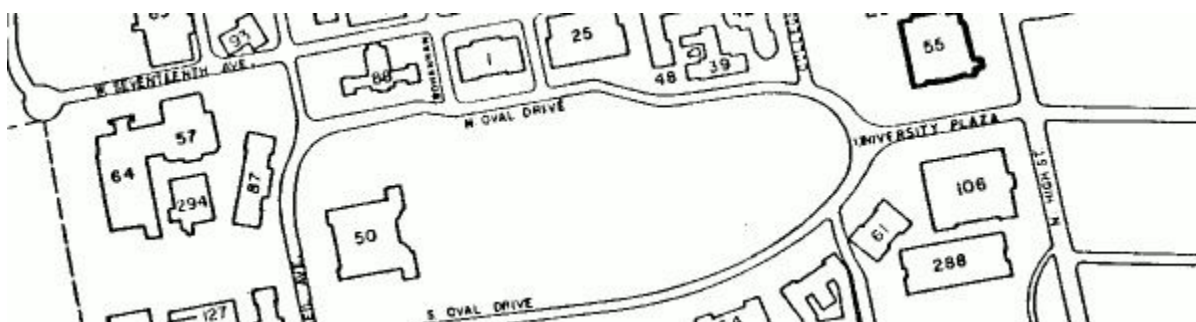
Planned and built as the "Auditorium" but some references in Board minutes are to "Mershon Auditorium."

See Addenda Nos. 3,5

2. Location

2.1 Located at 30 West 15th Avenue. See map hclow.

2.2 For greater detail, see Sheet 98 in the book of campus maps in the University Archives.



For identification of other buildings shown, see Appendix A.

3. General Description

3.1 Type of construction:

Steel frame with limestone and brick exterior.

3.2 No. of stories:

Basement plus six stories. The auditorium proper consists of a main floor and a balcony.

3.3 Increments of construction:

None; all constructed at one time.

See Addendum No. 1

3.4 Present area of building as shown in inventory records of Division of Campus Planning:

100, 368 sq. ft. gross;
60,112 sq. ft. net assignable

See Addendum No. 4

3.5 Volume of building:

2, 445, 750 cubic feet (PP).

B. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

1. On September 7, 1954 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by Bellman, Gillette and Richards and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.

2. Bids were received on December 21, 1954 (T).

3. On January 10, 1955 the Board of Trustees awarded contracts to the following contractors:

General: Frank Messer & Sons, Inc.

Electrical: Electric Power & Equipment Co.

Heating: The National Co.

Plumbing: Huffman-Wolfe Co.

4. Completion and occupancy:

4.1 The Auditorium was first used and dedicated on April 29, 1957 (Pollard, James E. , History of The Ohio State University, VIII, The Bevis Administration, 1940-1956, Part II, The Postwar Years and the Emergence of the Greater University, 1945-1956, Columbus: The Ohio State University, 1972. p. 263).

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Brick on west side was to be removed for attachment of "Little Theatre" addition. However, the "Little Theatre" has now been placed in the Drake Union (Building 296).

D. COST

1. Listed at \$2,747,107. 26 as of June 30, 1971 (B).

E. PHOTOGRAPHS

1. In Photoarchives:

X 7640

X 7815

X 7820

John H. Herrick
August 25, 1972

ADDENDUM NO. 1

According to Mr. Donald Horton, first director of the auditorium, the first use of the building was

for a concert by Rise Stevens on April 22, 1957, not April 29 as reported by Pollard.

On December 15, 1976 the Board of Trustees approved plans for a "Music Addition" on the west side to house the Performance Division of the School of Music, authorized the securing of bids and award of contracts. The plans were prepared by Eschliman Associates.

Bids were received on May 19, 1977 (T). On July 22, 1977 the award of contracts to the following contractors was reported to the Board of Trustees:

General - Sherman Smoot

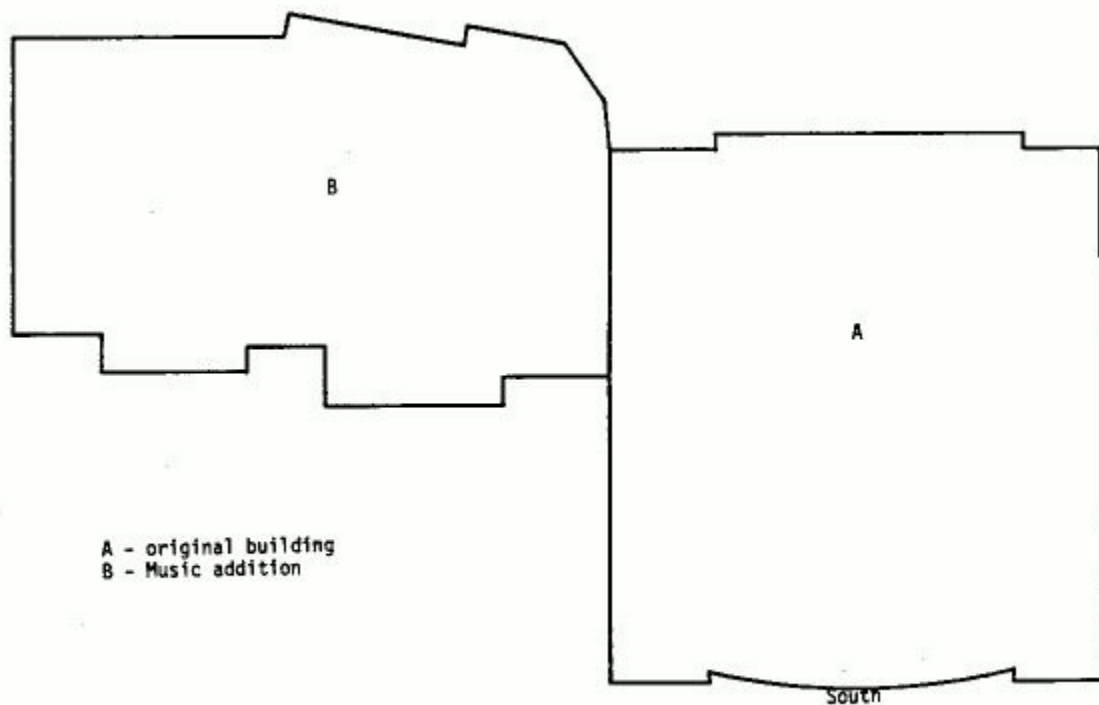
Plumbing - R.H. Reeb Plumbing and Piping Co.

Heating, ventilating and air conditioning: Montoney's Heating and Piping Co.

Electrical: Royal Electric

The following sketch shows the location of the addition.

See Addendum No. 2



ADDENDUM NO. 2

The Music Addition described in Addendum No. 1 above has been given a separate building number and address.

For further information, see Report 399.

John H. Herrick
May 14, 1979

ADDENDUM NO. 3

The name "Mershon Auditorium" is inscribed in large letters above the windows on the south face of the building, and this lettering was part of the original construction.

John H. Herrick
December 31, 1979

ADDENDUM NO. 4

Campus Planning records now show the following areas for this building:

114,742 sq. ft. gross
53,151 sq. ft. net assignable

John H. Herrick
February 7, 1985

ADDENDUM NO. 5

This building is now carried in Campus Planning records as Col. Ralph D. Mershon Auditorium.

The building still has no official name.

In connection with the construction of the Wexner Center for the Visual Arts (Bldg. 386), the loading dock of Mershon was demolished and a new one constructed. This work is included as Phase I of the Wexner project.

The architects for the Wexner project are Trott & Bean of Columbus and Eisenman Robertson Architects of New York.

Construction bids on Phase (Relocation of Mershon Loading Dock) were received on September 18, 1985, contracts were awarded in November, and construction started in December. (A) The contractors are as follows:

General - Vesta Construction
Plumbing - R.M. Giehl
Fire protection - S.A. Comunale
Heating, ventilating, & air conditioning - R.M. Giehl
Electric - Royal Electric

The project was ready for beneficial occupancy in September 1986. (A)

The loading dock is shown in Photograph X 30181.

John H. Herrick
November 25, 1986

ADDENDUM NO. 6

As of January 16, 1990, the address for Mershon is 1871 North High Street.